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Dear Chairmen Maynard and Guerrera and Members of the Transportation Committee:

I am writing concerning my strong support of **Bill number HB5461, An Act Concerning the Certificate of Title for Older Model Motor Vehicles.**

One of my hobbies is collecting cars; I currently have six show cars, four of which are from the 1970's. It is great hobby that allows me to get outside of my office, meet new people at car shows, spend time with my five year old son who loves to help clean the cars, and be an integral part of the community as I have brought my cars to many charity events to help raise funds for good causes such as raising funds for senior citizens home.

Five of my six "collector" cars were purchased used out of state and I was provided a title on each of the cars. One car was purchased in Connecticut and no title was available. As a result, it required that I trusted the person I bought the car from as I had no guarantee that the vehicle was lien free. As I knew the person, I believed I was ok. However, had I not known the person, I probably would not have purchased the car. Hence, this creates a significant problem if I am to sell any of my cars as it will; be difficult without title. At the time of registration, four of my six collector cars had the required VIN checks (two collector cars did not have the VIN check as not over 20 years old), sales tax was paid and all registration fees and property taxes are faithfully paid each year for each vehicle.

I remember when I first went to the DMV and discovered that Connecticut does not issue titles on vehicles over 20 years old. I was very concerned and upon investigation determined that Connecticut is one of ONLY three States that does not issue titles on cars over 20 years old. In lieu of a title, our DMV requires the seller to complete a Form Q-1. This is intended to take the place of a valid title at the time of sale. Unfortunately almost no other state will accept a Connecticut Q-1 Form as valid documentation for motor vehicle registration and subsequent generation of a title. There is nothing "official" about the Q-1 Form which is simply completed by the seller and the Q-1 provides a buyer no assurance whatsoever about whether the vehicle would have a "clear" title. Any claim that the Q-1 is a valid substitute for a title is unfortunately incorrect.

Clearly, by Connecticut not issuing titles, this puts Connecticut residents at a disadvantage on the open market to sell their vehicles and, in some cases, even prohibit such sale. I have been an expert witness/consultant in fraud cases brought to court and cannot help believe that lack of title helps people commit fraud as there is a lack of control over title registrations on older vehicles. Yes, there is a VIN check, but controls are not based upon one item, a combination of several, hence VIN check and titles together is much stronger.

I sincerely thank you for consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

Philip E. Schuch, CPA